

Peterson Lake

Surface Area: 97 acres

Maximum Depth: 30 feet (9.1 meters)

Drainage Size: 304 acres

Shoreline Length: 16,470 feet (3.12 miles)

Elevation: 2,999 feet (914 meters)

GENERAL INFORMATION

The lake is located in Flathead County. Surrounding land ownership is entirely private. During high water years, Peterson Lake is connected to Abbott Lake by a small waterway and can also be accessed via Echo Lake. The catchment area is entirely glacial till (Ellis & Craft, 2008).

FISHERIES INFORMATION

Fish distribution records indicate a presence of lake whitefish, largemouth bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed, and yellow perch. Peterson Lake is stocked annually with rainbow trout. For more information see: <https://fwp.mt.gov/fish/stocking.html>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Current NMLN citizen volunteers include: John O’Cain and Sarah Dakin



Location: 48.120551 N, 114.05853 W



Volunteer John O’Cain at Peterson Lake. Photo courtesy John O’Cain.

LAKE METRICS SUMMARY AND SCORES

Metric	Score	Description
Cold-water fish habitat	Low	Temperature and oxygen profiles show that Peterson Lake was evenly mixed or weakly stratified during summer sampling dates. Temperature profiles indicate that Peterson Lake has been within the avoidance threshold range for salmonids at depths of up to 7 meters during July and August. Oxygen profiles suggest that Peterson Lake has been between avoidance and anoxic concentration thresholds for salmonids at depths greater than 7 meters. Peterson Lake is considered a warm water fishery.
Nutrient Levels	Medium	Peterson Lake often ranks medium for small lakes for total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and chlorophyll (<i>a</i>).
Nutrient Trend	Consistent	No trend is apparent
Trophic Status	Oligo-mesotrophic	Carlson's Trophic Index trend shows Peterson Lake is consistently oligo-mesotrophic.
Dreissenid Colonization Potential (Calcium)	High	Peterson Lake's 2010, 2011, and 2016 average calcium concentration was 29.3mg/L classifying it as a high risk for zebra mussel colonization. The 2012 alkalinity level was reported at 150mg/L.
Known AIS infestations	None	



